

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A multi-channel audio signal processing device comprising:

signal supply means for supplying coded audio signals through several input channels, and for each input channel, through  
5 separate sub-channels covering distinct frequency sub-band domains; and

synthesis or reconstruction filters (SFB) for decoding and synthesizing audio signals over the total frequency domain covered by the sub-band domains,  
10 characterized in that said multi-channel audio signal processing device further comprises:

sub-band combination circuits, each sub-band combination circuit being supplied with audio signals through respective input channels which lie in one and the same sub-band frequency domain,  
15 while the output signals of a sub-band combination circuit covering an associated frequency sub-domain are supplied to one of said synthesis filters for each output channel of said multi-channel audio signal processing device.

2. (Previously Presented) A multi-channel audio signal processing device comprising:

signal supply means for supplying coded audio signals through several input channels, and for each input channel, through  
5 separate sub-channels covering distinct frequency sub-band domains;  
and

synthesis or reconstruction filters (SFB) for decoding and synthesizing audio signals over the total frequency domain covered by the sub-band domains,  
10 characterized in that said multi-channel audio signal processing device further comprises:

sub-band combination circuits, each sub-band combination circuit being supplied with audio signals through respective input channels which lie in one and the same sub-band frequency domain,  
15 while the output signals of a sub-band combination circuit covering an associated frequency sub-domain are supplied to one of said synthesis filters for each output channel of said multi-channel audio signal processing device; and

filter means coupled to inputs of the respective synthesis  
20 filters.

3. (Previously Presented) A multi-channel audio signal processing device comprising:

signal supply means for supplying coded audio signals through several input channels, and for each input channel, through

5 separate sub-channels covering distinct frequency sub-band domains;  
and

synthesis or reconstruction filters (SFB) for decoding and  
synthesizing audio signals over the total frequency domain covered  
by the sub-band domains,

10 characterized in that said multi-channel audio signal processing  
device further comprises:

sub-band combination circuits, each sub-band combination  
circuit being supplied with audio signals through respective input  
channels which lie in one and the same sub-band frequency domain,  
15 while the output signals of a sub-band combination circuit covering  
an associated frequency sub-domain are supplied to one of said  
synthesis filters for each output channel of said multi-channel  
audio signal processing device; and

filter means coupled between the relevant sub-band  
20 combination circuits and the respective synthesis filter.

4. (Previously Presented) A multi-channel audio signal processing  
device comprising:

signal supply means for supplying coded audio signals  
through several input channels, and for each input channel, through  
5 separate sub-channels covering distinct frequency sub-band domains;  
and

synthesis or reconstruction filters (SFB) for decoding and synthesizing audio signals over the total frequency domain covered by the sub-band domains,

10 characterized in that said multi-channel audio signal processing device further comprises:

sub-band combination circuits, each sub-band combination circuit being supplied with audio signals through respective input channels which lie in one and the same sub-band frequency domain,  
15 while the output signals of a sub-band combination circuit covering an associated frequency sub-domain are supplied to one of said synthesis filters for each output channel of said multi-channel audio signal processing device; and

filter means coupled between the input sub-channels and  
20 inputs of the sub-band combination circuits.

5. (Previously Presented) The multi-channel audio signal processing device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the filter means comprise elements for introducing a scale factor.

6. (Previously Presented) The multi-channel audio signal processing device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the filter means comprise filters for obtaining a desired virtual spatial widening from which the audio signals can be heard through  
5 separate reproduction channels.

7. (Previously Presented) The multi-channel audio signal processing device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the filter means comprise equalization filters or tone control filters of an alternative kind.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for processing an audio signal comprising the steps:

receiving a first plurality of coded audio signals in separate channels, each coded audio signal having a second

5 plurality of in-different frequency sub-bands areas;

combining ~~the coded audio signals in different~~ respective frequency sub-bands of the second plurality of sub-band of each of the first plurality of coded audio signals to form a third plurality of combined signals; and

10 synthesis filtering and decoding the third plurality of combined signals.